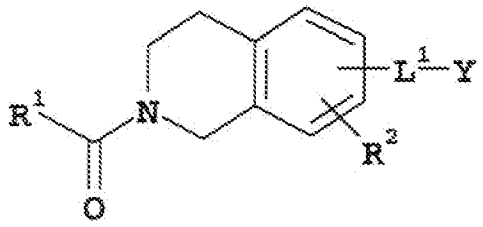
CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (I):-



(I)

wherein:-

R^1 represents ~~optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, R^3NH-Ar^1-L^2- or R^3-NH-C(=O)-NH-Ar^2-L^2-~~;

R^2 represents hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-4}alkyl or C_{1-4}alkoxy;

R^3 represents optionally substituted aryl ~~or optionally substituted heteroaryl~~;

~~R^4 is alkyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl or heterocycloalkyl, or alkyl substituted by aryl, an acidic functional group, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl, heterocycloalkyl, $-S(O)_{m}R^5$, $-C(=O)-NY^3Y^4$ or $-NY^3Y^4$;~~

R^5 represents alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkyl, arylalkenyl, arylalkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkenyl, cycloalkylalkynyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkenylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylalkenyl, heteroarylalkynyl, heterocycloalkyl or heterocycloalkylalkyl;

~~R^6 is hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl or heterocycloalkylalkyl;~~

~~R^7 is hydrogen, R^5 or alkyl substituted with alkoxy, cycloalkyl, hydroxy, mercapto, alkylthio or $-NY^3Y^4$;~~

~~R^8 is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl;~~

~~R^9 and R^{11} are each independently selected from hydrogen or a group consisting of amino acid side chains, an acidic functional group, R^5, $-C(=O)-R^5$, or $-C(=O)-NY^3Y^4$, or alkyl substituted by an acidic~~

~~functional group or by R^5, NY^3Y^4, $NH-C(=O)-R^5$, $C(=O)-R^{12}-NH_2$, $C(=O)-Ar^2-NH_2$, $C(=O)-R^{12}-CO_2H$, or $C(=O)-NY^3Y^4$;~~

~~or R^7 and R^9 together with the atoms to which they attached form a 3- to 6-membered heterocycloalkyl ring;~~

~~R^{10} represents C_{1-6}alkylene, optionally substituted by R^4;~~

~~R^{12} is an alkylene chain, an alkenylene chain, or an alkynylene chain;~~

~~R^{13} is alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl or heterocycloalkylalkyl;~~

Ar^1 represents a ~~saturated, partially saturated or~~ fully unsaturated 8- to 10-membered bicyclic ring system containing at least one heteroatom selected from O, S or N, optionally substituted by one or more aryl group substituents;

~~Ar^2 represents arylidiyl or heteroaryldiyl;~~

L^1 represents:

~~(i) an alkenylene, alkylene or alkynylene linkage each optionally substituted by (a) carboxy, hydroxy, mercapto, cyano, oxo, $-S(O)_{m}R^4$, R^5, $C(=O)-R^5$, $C(=O)-OR^5$, $N(R^6)-C(=O)-R^4$, $N(R^6)-C(=O)-OR^4$, $N(R^6)-SO_2-R^4$, NY^3Y^4, or $-[C(=O)-N(R^7)-C(R^8)(R^9)]_p-C(=O)-NY^3Y^4$, or by (b) alkyl substituted by carboxy, hydroxy, mercapto, imidazolyl, $S(O)_{m}R^4$, $C(=O)-NY^3Y^4$ or NY^3Y^4;~~

~~(ii) a $-[C(=O)-N(R^7)-C(R^8)(R^9)]_p-$ linkage;~~

~~(iii) a $-Z^1-R^{10}-$ linkage;~~

~~(iv) a $-R^{10}-Z^1-R^{10}-$ linkage;~~

~~(v) a $-C(R^8)(R^{11})-[C(=O)-N(R^7)-C(R^8)(R^9)]_p-$ linkage; or~~

~~(vi) a $-L^3-L^4-L^5-$ linkage;~~

L^2 represents an alkylene chain;

~~L^3 and L^5 each independently represent a direct bond or an alkylene chain;~~

~~L^4 represents a cycloalkylene or heterocycloalkylene linkage;~~

~~Y^1 and Y^2 are independently hydrogen, alkenyl, alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl, or the group NY^1Y^2 may form a cyclic amine;~~

~~Y^3 and Y^4 are independently hydrogen, alkenyl, alkyl, alkynyl, aryl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl, heterocycloalkyl, or alkyl substituted by alkoxy, aryl, cyano, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl, heterocycloalkyl, hydroxy, oxo, NY^1Y^2, or one or more CO_2R^6 or $C(=O)NY^1Y^2$ groups, or the group NY^3Y^4 may form a 5- to 7-membered cyclic amine which (i) may be optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of alkoxy, carboxamido, carboxy, hydroxy, oxo (or a 5-, 6- or 7-membered cyclic acetal derivative thereof) and R^7, (ii) may also contain a further heteroatom selected from O, S, SO_2, or NY^5, and (iii) may also be fused to additional aryl, heteroaryl, heterocycloalkyl or cycloalkyl rings to form a bicyclic or tricyclic ring system;~~

~~Y^5 is hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, $C(=O)R^{13}$, $C(=O)OR^{13}$ or SO_2R^{13};~~

~~Z^1 is O, $S(O)_p$, NR^8, SO_2NR^8, $C(=O)NR^8$ or $C(=O)$;~~

Y is carboxy ~~or an acid bioisostere~~;

~~m is an integer 1 or 2;~~

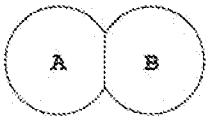
~~n is zero or an integer 1 or 2; and~~

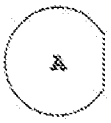
~~p is zero or an integer 1 to 4;~~

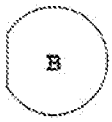
~~but excluding compounds where an oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur atom is attached directly to a carbon carbon multiple bond of an alkenylene or alkynylene residue;~~

and the corresponding N-oxides and ester prodrugs thereof, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates of such compounds, and the N-oxides and ester prodrugs thereof.

2. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~in which R^1 represents a group R^3-NH-Ar^1-L^2-~~ in which: L^2 is a straight or branched C_{1-6}alkylene chain; and

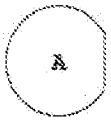
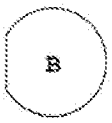
Ar^1 is an 8- to 10-membered bicyclic system 

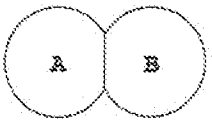
in which (i) ring 

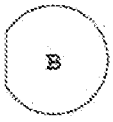
is a 5- or 6-membered optionally substituted heterocycle, (ii) ring 

is a 5- or 6-membered optionally substituted heterocycle or an optionally substituted benzene ring, and (iii) the two rings are joined together by a carbon-carbon linkage or a carbon-nitrogen linkage ~~and~~

~~R^3 is an optionally substituted aryl.~~

3. (Original) A compound according to claim 2 in which  is a 5-membered optionally substituted heterocycle, ring  is an optionally substituted benzene ring, and the two rings are joined together by a carbon-carbon linkage.

4. (Original) A compound according to claim 2 in which  is an optionally substituted benzoxazolyl or an optionally substituted benzimidazolyl, each in which the benzene ring contains the optional substituents.

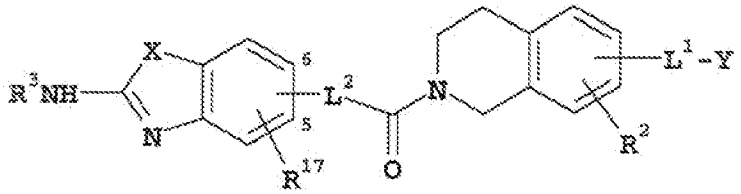
5. (Original) A compound according to claim 2 in which ring  is a benzene ring optionally substituted by one of C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, amino, halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkylthio, C_{1-4} alkylsulfinyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, nitro or trifluoromethyl.

6. (Original) A compound according to claim 2 in which R^3 represents a 2-substituted phenyl.

7. (Original) A compound according to claim 6 in which R^3 represents 2-methylphenyl.

8-15. (cancelled)

16. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 of formula (Ia):-



(Ia)

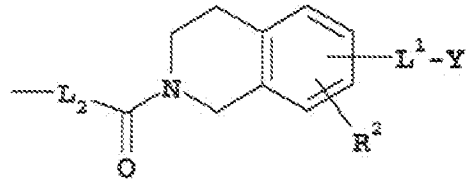
in which R^2, R^3, L^1, L^2 and Y are as defined in claim 1, X is O or NR^{18}, where R^{18} is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl, and R^{17} is hydrogen or an aryl group substituent, and the corresponding N-oxides and ester prodrugs thereof, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates of such compounds, and the N-oxides and ester prodrugs thereof.

17. (cancelled)

18. (Original) A compound according to claim 16 in which R^{17} represents hydrogen, halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, or C_{1-4}alkoxy.

19. (Original) A compound according to claim 16 in which L^2 represents a straight or branched C_{1-6}alkylene chain.

20. (Original) A compound according to claim 16 in which the group



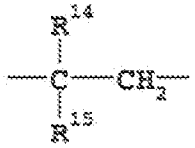
is attached at the ring 6 position or at the ring 5 or 6 position when X is NR^{18} and R^{18} is C_{1-4}alkyl.

21. (Original) A compound according to claim 16 in which the group $-L^1-Y$ is attached at position 6 or 7 of the tetrahydroisoquinoline ring.

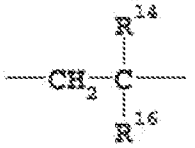
22-28. (cancelled)

29. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 in which L^1 represents a C_{1-4}alkylene linkage optionally substituted by C_{1-4}alkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl, ~~$-N(R^6)-C(=O)-R^4$, $-NR^6-C(=O)-OR^4$, $-N(R^6)-SO_2-R^4$, $-NY^3Y^4$, or $-(C=O)-N(R^7)-C(R^8)(R^9)_{1-3}-C(=O)-NY^3Y^4$, or alkyl substituted by carboxy, hydroxy, mercapto, imidazolyl, $-C(=O)-NY^3Y^4$, or $-NY^3Y^4$~~.

30. (Original) A compound according to claim 29 in which the C_{1-4}alkylene linkage is an ethylene linkage.

31. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 30 in which L^1 represents a group  , where R^{14} is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl and R^{15} represents hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl; or

where R^{14} is hydrogen and R^{15} represents aryl, or heteroaryl, ~~$-N(R^6)-C(=O)-R^4$, $-N(R^6)-C(=O)-OR^4$, $-N(R^6)-SO_2-R^4$, $-NY^3Y^4$, or $-[C(=O)-N(R^7)-C(R^8)(R^9)]_p-C(=O)-NY^3Y^4$, or alkyl substituted by carboxy, hydroxy, mercapto, imidazolyl, $-C(=O)-NY^3Y^4$ or $-NY^3Y^4$.~~

32. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 30 in which L^1 represents a group  , where R^{14} is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl and R^{16} represents C_{1-4}alkyl; or where R^{14} is

hydrogen and R^{16} represents aryl or heteroaryl, ~~$-N(R^6)-C(=O)-R^4$, $-N(R^6)-C(=O)-OR^4$, $-N(R^6)-SO_2-R^4$, $-NY^3Y^4$, or $-[C(=O)-N(R^7)-C(R^8)(R^9)]_p-C(=O)-NY^3Y^4$, or alkyl substituted by carboxy, hydroxy, mercapto, imidazolyl, $-C(=O)-NY^3Y^4$ or $-NY^3Y^4$.~~

33-34. (cancelled)

35. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 selected from:
3-{((4-methyl-2-*o*-tolylamino-benzoxazol-6-yl)-acetyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-isoquinolin-6-yl}-butanoic acid;
3-{((2-*o*-tolylamino-benzoxazol-6-yl)-acetyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-isoquinolin-7-yl}-butanoic acid,;
3-phenyl-3-{((2-*o*-tolylamino-benzoxazol-6-yl)-acetyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-isoquinolin-6-yl}-propanoic acid;
3-cyclohexyl-3-{((2-*o*-tolylamino-benzoxazol-6-yl)-acetyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-isoquinolin-6-yl}-propanoic acid;
3-(pyrid-4-yl)-3-{((2-*o*-tolylamino-benzoxazol-6-yl)-acetyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-isoquinolin-7-yl}-

propanoic acid;

3-{((2-*o*-tolylamino-benzoxazol-6-yl)-acetyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-isoquinolin-8-yl}-but-2-enoic acid;

3-{((2-*o*-tolylamino-benzoxazol-6-yl)-acetyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-isoquinolin-8-yl}-butanoic acid;

~~3-{2-[(2-*o*-tolylamino-benzoxazol-6-yl) carbonyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-isoquinolin-6-yl} butanoic acid;~~

~~{5-(3-methoxy-4-{3-(2-methylphenyl)ureido}-phenylacetylamino)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-isoquinolin-8-yl}-butanoic acid;~~

~~2-(2,6-dichloro-benzoylamino)-3-{2-(2,6-dichloro-benzoyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-isoquinolin-7-yl}-propionic acid;~~

3-phenyl-3-{((2-*o*-tolylamino-benzoxazol-6-yl)-acetyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-isoquinolin-7-yl}-propanoic acid;

3-{(2-*o*-tolylamino-benzoxazol-6-yl)-acetyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-isoquinolin-6-yl}-butanoic acid;

3-(pyrid-4-yl)-3-{((2-*o*-tolylamino-benzoxazol-6-yl)-acetyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-isoquinolin-7-yl}-propanoic acid, enantiomer A;

3-(pyrid-4-yl)-3-{((2-*o*-tolylamino-benzoxazol-6-yl)-acetyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-isoquinolin-7-yl}-propanoic acid, enantiomer B;

and the corresponding N-oxides and ester prodrugs thereof, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates of such compounds, and the N-oxides and ester prodrugs thereof.

36. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 or a corresponding N-oxide or ester prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate of such a compound, or an N-oxide or ester prodrug thereof, in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

37. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of a human or non-human animal patient suffering from, or subject to, a condition which can be ameliorated by the administration of an inhibitor of α4β1 mediated cell adhesion comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 or a corresponding N-oxide or ester prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate of such a compound, or an N-oxide or ester prodrug thereof.

38. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of a patient suffering from, or subject to, asthma comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 or a corresponding N-oxide or ester prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate of such a compound, or an N-oxide or ester prodrug thereof.

39. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of a patient suffering from, or subject to, an inflammatory disease comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 or a corresponding N-oxide or ester prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate of such a compound, or an N-oxide or ester prodrug thereof.

40. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of a human or non-human animal patient suffering from, or subject to, a condition which can be ameliorated by the administration of an inhibitor of $\alpha 4\beta 1$ mediated cell adhesion comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a composition according to claim 36.

41. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of a patient suffering from, or subject to, asthma comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a composition according to claim 36.

42. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of a patient suffering from, or subject to, an inflammatory disease comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a composition according to claim 36.